

NSC BRIEFING

25X1
5 January 1958

AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

- I. Strongly anti-Western resolutions of non-governmental Cairo conference (ended 1 Jan.) will probably set lines for communist and nationalist agitation during 1958.
 - A. They back up Sino-Soviet foreign policy.
 - B. They support ultra-nationalist objectives.
 - C. They strongly back colonial liberation movements.
 - D. They stress need for economic self-sufficiency and exclusion of western economic interests.
- II. Communist influence dominated conference.
 - A. Soviets played most prominent role.
 1. USSR further entrenched as "Asian State."
 2. Soviet statements on economic aid were general expression of willingness to aid any country. While this not new, USSR probably feels it will stimulate new requests for aid. USSR could probably extend much additional aid and may feel its objectives in Asia and Africa warrant the necessary internal adjustments.
 - B. Domination was assured by large majority of delegates being Communists, fellow travellers, or ultra-nationalists.
 - C. Chief Soviet delegate Sharaf Rashidov (one of several Deputy Chairmen Supreme Soviet and Chairman Uzbek Supreme Soviet) said USSR "...is always ready to help people of any country in their struggle for liberation," and "the time is not far off when there will be neither colonies nor dependent nations."

D. Conference opposition scattered, largely ineffective.

1. Egyptian and Indian delegations exercised somewhat restraining effect, supported on occasion by some delegates from Japan, Indonesia, Burma, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tunisia and Ghana.

III. Conference agreed to perpetuate itself. Established permanent Cairo secretariat and "African and Asian Peoples' Solidarity Council," which will meet once a year.

- A. Real power will be in secretariat which includes USSR and Communist China.

IV. Nassir regime's attitude confused.

- A. Regime apparently felt before conference it would derive propaganda benefits.
- B. But later, ^{Nassir} refused to address conference, admitted that Egyptian delegation was "completely out of hand."

V. Reaction from non-Communist Asia and Africa varied.

- A. Except for Egypt and Syria, governments have avoided any indication of official approval. Many, including India, privately discouraged attendance.
- B. Nehru declared that conference was "no concern" of India since it was not official.
- C. Limited amount of press reaction largely negative, especially in Tunisia and India.
 1. Indian Praja Socialist Free Press Journal called it "Cairo Circus."
- D. But there has been little forthright public criticism by politicians probably because of irreproachable slogans of anticolonialism and peace.
- E. ^{Approved For Release 2002/09/04 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000900050003-0} Many governments may find it difficult to counter exploitation of delegates' reports when they return.